



# News Release

## Arizona Department of Public Safety

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **DPS Officer Seizes 2,800 Pounds of Marijuana** **And Donates 1,600 Cases of Tomatoes to Charity**

On May 09, 2007 Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Highway Patrol Officers seized more than 2,800 pounds of marijuana following a traffic stop on a commercial vehicle. The stop occurred around 8:30 p.m. on Interstate 19 near Kilometer 95, just outside of Tucson. The DPS officer, assigned to the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit, stopped Eugene Alcaraz, age 32, for traffic violations as he traveled north into Tucson.

During the stop, the officer requested assistance from the Pima County Sheriff's Department police service dog unit. A Police Service Dog from the Pima County Sheriff's Department alerted to the odor of drugs in the semi-trailer. The Pima County/ Tucson Metropolitan Counter Narcotics Alliance was called out to assist with the investigation after officers discovered numerous pallets containing what appeared to be bales of marijuana.

Counter Narcotics Alliance investigators emptied the contents of the trailer, removing approximately 1,600 cases of tomatoes, to reveal over 2,880 pounds of marijuana hidden amongst the boxes of legitimate produce.

Alcaraz, a resident of Rio Rico, was arrested in connection with the investigation and booked into the Pima County Jail on drug charges. Investigators found that the shipping paperwork on the load of tomatoes was false, so a donation of the fresh produce was made to the Tucson Community Food Bank.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.



**\*INCLUDING COVER SHEET.**

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